

REMARKSSpecification

5 The Abstract has been revised to conform to U.S. practice, and the usual specification headings have been added.

Drawing

A red-marked copy of Sheet 2, showing connecting portions 10 extending between the outer annular part and the central portion, is enclosed.

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Indefiniteness

The claims are amended to correct all the formal matters kindly pointed out by the examiner, plus others identified by the undersigned attorney. Applicants believe that all US requirements for definiteness are met.

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Art rejection - US 477,127 (Regan)

To the extent that the rejection over Regan might be maintained against the amended claims, reconsideration is requested because nothing in Regan teaches nor at all suggests that the attachment is removably attached to the auxiliary part.

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Claim 1, and those dependent therefrom, require that the element is snapped onto the outer cutting member by one side of the element, and the attachment is removably fastened to the other side of the element.

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To the contrary, the Regan Fig. 1 applicator is "adhesively attached" (col. 1, lines 59-60), and the depiction and description suggest that removal of the applicator would require extraordinary efforts and techniques, and would be destructive. The Fig. 2 applicator is "integrally attached" (col. 2, lines 21-22), as is the Fig. 5 embodiment (col. 2, lines 34-36). The Fig. 7 applicator surrounds the wire frame, so that there is neither a snap attachment nor removable fastening of the applicator to the wire frame.

Accordingly the claims are all patentable over Regan.

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## Art rejection - US 5,706,582 (hereinafter "Hosokawa")

To the extent that the rejection over Hosokawa might be maintained against the amended claims, reconsideration is requested because nothing in Hosokawa teaches nor at all suggests that the attachment is removably attached to the auxiliary part.

5 Instant claim 1 is summarized above.

Hosokawa teaches that a skin stretcher is an elastic material capable of elastic deformation in a micro displacement range relative to the base (Abstract).

The seventh embodiment, identified in Paper No. 6, is shown in Figs. 22-23. These show a single head rotary shaver having a skin stretcher ring, apparently formed of a resilient material, and 10 arranged slightly outward of the outer cutting member. It is "held by the holder 132" which is "floatingly supported" from the head of the frame (col. 10, lines 10-19).

The cutter unit 130 comprises the holder 132 and the foil outer cutter 131 (col. 9, lines 57-61), so it teaches that removal of the holder 132 removes the cutter foil as well as the skin stretcher ring. Unlike the present invention, the holder 132 holds the outer cutting member in place, 15 Movement of the outer foil away from the rotating cutter is limited by the stopper 133 of the holder 132 contacts the edge of the slot 124 of the head frame (col. 10, lines 3-6).

Nothing in Hosokawa suggests that the skin stretcher is removably fastened to the holder ring. Connection of the holder 132 to the skin stretcher and to the cutting member both are on the same, inner side of the holder. Thus there is no anticipation of, nor suggestion of, the instant 20 invention.

Claims 6 and 7

Ikuta teaches no more than a combination stop and snap connection like that of holder 132 of Hosokawa. The other patents merely refer to known features of shavers, found in the art cited by 25 applicant and having nothing to do with the removability claimed herein.

CONCLUSION

All formal matters are complied with, and the claims are shown to be patentable. Accordingly the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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10 enc: sketch

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